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By: Ruth Montalvo / **Ruth Montalvo** Date: **March 12, 2001****IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Customer No. 026418  
 Attorney's Docket No.: JG-SU-5047 / 500577.20023  
 U.S. Application No.:  
 International Application No.: PCT/JP99/04899  
 International Filing Date: SEPTEMBER 09, 1999 09 SEPTEMBER 1999  
 Priority Date Claimed: SEPTEMBER 11, 1998 11 SEPTEMBER 1998  
 Title of Invention: SMOKING METHOD AND APPARATUS THEREFOR  
 Applicant(s) for (DO/EO/US): Mamoru MIYAMORI, Hiroshi HOSHINO, Toshihiko MARUYAMA,  
 Masao HIGUCHI and Hiroshi SAITO

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 Commissioner for Patents  
 Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

The above-identified application is filed concurrently herewith, please amend the specification and claims as follows:

After the title and before TECHNICAL FIELD insert the following:

—This application claims Paris Convention priority of Japanese Application No. Hei 10-257765 filed September 11, 1998 and International Application No. PCT/JP00/04899 filed September 11, 1998, the complete disclosure of which is(are) hereby incorporated by reference.♦

**R E M A R K S**

The above amendment is submitted to include the cross-referencing of the Japanese priority and the International Application. No new matter is added. Entry into the application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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